

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



February 2014

Kingdom of Bahrain

CQ Zone: 21
ITU Zone: 39
IOTA AS-002



First and second operators taking a break from the pile-up. You have to agree, these two are just outstanding in their field.

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Chip Margelli, K7JA, will discuss "New Geometries for High-Performance Beam Antennas."

FEBRUARY MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT Filippi's Pizza Grotto ~ <http://goo.gl/maps/wTdBq>
9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92131

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 2014

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A Word from the Prez . . .

Dan Severance, N6ERD

Greetings DXers,

Some of us either don't know CW or don't know it well, but that doesn't mean you have to look forlornly at those rare DX stations on the air doing CW and think "I wish I could work that one"! There is a lot you can do with minimal CW skills even without a CW reader like CW Skimmer.

DX is a special case where you can work the station knowing as little CW as your call, 599/5NN, QRZ, CQ and not much more. It's a pretty simple matter to program various programs to play the CW for your call at various speeds to learn what it sounds like. You need to do this a lot so you are certain when you hear it, but that and 599/5NN are the only things the DX station are going to be sending that you need to know.

Second you need to be able to send code, but that is handled via a variety of logging programs using a soundcard interface you may have already set up for PSK or RTTY. The same interface can send CW from text typed at the keyboard within the logging program. Define a macro to send your call sign and another to send the expected exchange – for DX generally 599 TU. Alternatively you can use a CW keyer with programmable memories to send the CW with the same programmed exchanges.

When you find the DX station wait until you hear 599/5NN from a station they are working and then either QRZ, CQ or some stations just pause and skip the call sign in a big pileup. When you learn the pattern you'll know when to send your call sign. Send your call sign using the macro/keyer and listen for your call to come back. Once you hear it send the exchange macro and listen for the response you've heard to other callers.

Check the online log once updated to make sure it was a good contact and you are good to go. You can do the same thing in CW DX contests, you just need to read the rules to find the exchange needed by the DX station. If you are just after the contact you can ignore the report they send but you must send them a proper report or they won't log the contact.

You will find that as you work stations like this you get more comfortable listening to CW and can be a start to learning CW, but that's for another month!

73, Dan, N6ERD

Vice President's Report

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



Greetings to all!

Here's hoping that everyone has settled into 2014 and having a right fine time. Also hope that everyone got FT5ZM in their log at least once or on many bands/modes. They logged nearly 165,000 Q's and I see that the SDDXC has a respectable turn out on Club Log. They did a heck of a job from half around the world to here and I hope their trip back was a safe one.

Once again this month's meeting will NOT be at the Sizzler. I hope that everyone received my direct e-mail or saw it on the club's websites. Here is the information that was sent out ~ Temporary Meeting Place:

Filippi's Pizza Grotto ~ <http://goo.gl/maps/wTdBq>
9969 Mira Mesa Blvd, San Diego, CA 92131
(858) 586-0888
Social Hour 5:00 P.M. – Dinner 5:30 P.M. – Meeting 6:30 P.M.

I received a call from one of the Sizzler's manager's yesterday afternoon (2-21-14) indicating that the remodel is going even longer than planned. So we will **NOT** be meeting there in **March** either. The new planned re-opening is April 1st. Yes, that is what he said, so we'll see how that goes! I would like for everyone to put their thinking caps on and decide whether we want to go to Filippi's again in March or come up with yet another temporary meeting location.

Thanks to Jim Price for a VFB presentation last month! The presentation for the February meeting will be Chip Margelli, K7JA, he will discuss "New Geometries for High-Performance Beam Antennas." Chip joined InnovAntennas in January of 2013, and his presentation will explore the entire field of bent, looped, and just plain loop antennas; his talk may just give us some ideas for our next antenna projects (or for Field Day next year). Please join us for this informative presentation by Chip.

We, the San Diego DX Club, are tasked with

the registration table, selling raffle tickets and staffing the prize room (gee, I wonder who will do that!) at the IDXC. Some of you signed up at the last meeting, but we still need a number of you that are willing to step up and help out at the registration table, especially when the bell rings at 11:00 A.M. on Friday till the madness subsides. It is a great way to meet/greet fellow DXer's. We also need sales-folks for the raffle tickets. We'll bring this up at the meeting again, so please toss your hat in the ring. For other news about the convention, go to this link: <http://www.dxconvention.org/news.html>

The ARRL Centennial Party sure has generated a lot of activity on the bands. A number of our club members put in a great showing by representing the ARRL using the W1AW/6 call sign ~ Thanks!. We also saw a good showing with the call sign in the ARRL DX CW Contest. Hope that everyone had a great time doing so! Thanks to Glenn Rattmann, K6NA, for taking on the monumental task of coordinating this effort for all of the Southern California operators.

There is plenty of DX on currently, check out the Leagues DX Bulletin here: <http://www.arrrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive/ARLD008/2012> The North American RTTY QSO Party is on this weekend: 1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23. There is the ARRL DX SSB Contest at the end of the month: 0000Z, Mar 1 to 2400Z, Mar 2. The solar numbers have been bouncing all around and I'm glad that they were *decent* last week. You can read more about what's happening in that department here: <http://www.arrrl.org/wlaw-bulletins-archive/ARLP008/2014>

Sure hope that everyone that made the trek to the 2014 ARRL Arizona Section Convention - Yuma Hamfest had a great time! The Palms Springs Hamfest will be on March 15, 2014. This event has outgrown its original location at the QTH of Gary, KD6QLT and Susan, KD6TVO. It will be held at the Palm Springs Pavilion this year. You can read more about it at this link: <http://palmspringshamfest.com/>

Thanks to all that have sent in their dues! If you haven't had a chance to do so, please bring payment to the meeting. Please remember that the club's newsletter is only as good as the information Ron receives, so please take the time to submit any DX related stories,

73 & 88's to the pretty ones ~

Wild Bill, WB6BFG

Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Ellen, N6UWW



Secretary's Report

The January 22nd meeting was conducted by Dan N6ERD at Filippi's Mira Mesa as Sizzler is *finally* undergoing their long awaited remodel. Newcomers and visitors were introduced. Phil AF6AV, Dylan KK6IFZ (11 year old grandson of WN6K) and Lou KW6Q.

Old Business: NCDXF contribution which was to have been matched by W7OO ran out of matching funds so the Board has decided to maintain our regular donation schedule. The club's Holiday Party was a smashing success, held at the QTH of Sally & Andre Hansen K6AH, and attended by about 35 members & guests. Thanks were given to those who set up & cleaned up.

New business: Harry W6YOO announced that SAND-ARC accredited VE's are needed on January 25th to help with multiple test sessions at 9 AM and 5 PM at the LDS Church in Escondido. Charlie NN3V reported on the Poway Antenna situation: 4 City Council members appear to be positively influenced by the Poway group's presentation. On 18 Feb there will be another City Council meeting which will be a "workshop" for the upcoming ordinance. The Poway group has retained an attorney who is quickly accruing billable hours toward this effort. Gayle K6GO reminded the Club of their generosity when the San Diego Antenna Ordinance was under fire and begged the group to be generous once again as Poway goes through the antenna ordinance process. Several members offered up personal donations and the heated bidding generated \$1300.

Wild Bill WB6BFG announced that he & John K6AM and Dan N6ERD attended a planning meeting for the IDXC in Visalia. Members of the Club are needed to staff the registration booth and a sign-up sheet was circulated for volunteers. We also need to provide a couple of people willing to sell raffle tickets and staff the prize room (N6JOJ & N6ERD). RV Camping will only be at the KOA nearby and a discount rate is offered (\$39.60/nt/full hookup and \$37.80/nt/H2O& electric only).

A Roundtable discussion ensued. After a short break, Jim K6ZH gave a presentation on his recent trip to Peru w/ Bud N7CW to operate in CQ WW CW. He personally delivered QSL cards to those who worked him as OC4CW and also presented Dylan KK6IFZ with an ARRL Handbook.

Treasurer's Report

Statement Balance 1/31/2014 \$4898.48

Dues become delinquent 1/31/2014

Please send checks payable to "SDDX Club Inc" (\$20 individual or \$30 family) to :

San Diego DX Club
c/o Ellen Utschig N6UWW
2104 Poplar Rd
Oceanside, CA 92058-2332

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Thanks to everyone who provided input this month

Below are some thoughts from Wayne, NN6R. I concur because I believe top tier DX clubs have an obligation to support major DXpeditions, like FT5ZM.

If we want these "southern" islands DXpeditions to happen, the ones involving the ship Braveheart and even helicopters, we're going to have to think hard about our level of giving. It's frightening how expensive these things have gotten. \$450K dollars for this one and maybe double that for Heard, when it finally happens. I think 2/3 of this one's budget went to just the boat. It's ridiculously expensive just to get to some of these places now. See: <http://dx-world.net/2012/dxpedition-costs/>

Sure, the DX foundations give their share, but so do the actual, individual operators (apparently, it costs well over \$10,000 to join up for one of these things -- money you don't really get back). Right now, according to the website (<http://www.amsterdamdx.org/>), they are \$100K short of making the budget. Even for Amsterdam, not all QSOs mean a QSL card and a contribution; some of us already have Amsterdam.

We can decide to give nothing, and rely on the donations of strangers to make #1 Honor Roll. Or, we can notice that the approximate cost of a QSO for this thing is about four or five bucks (!) and decide what we are going to do about it. Personally I have decided that the extra two or three bucks I usually toss in for an operation is a little too small. But that's just me. Speaking for myself, I'm going to give proportionate to the number of QSOs I make.

Wayne, NN6R

The SDDXC Top Ten

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 10 METERS

2/13	2/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	?	?	341	+1
2.	3.	N0RR	40	320	330	332	+3
3.	4.	K6AM	40	319	326	327	+1
4.	5.	N6CW	40	?	297	322	-
5.	6.	W6YI	40	292	298	315	+5
6.	-.	K6XT	40	257	259	300	NEW
7.	7.	W6YOO	40	289	295	295	-
8.	8.	K0XB	40	274	279	292	+17
9.	-.	N7CW	40	258	258	284	NEW
10.	9	K6ZH	39	256	262	278	+4

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 40 METERS

2/13	2/14	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	W6YA	40	336	347	347	-
2.	5.	K6XT	40	327	339	343	+13
3.	3.	N0RR	40	329	341	342	+1
4.	4.	K6AM	40	325	331	335	-1
5.	6.	N7CW	40	320	320	329	-
6.	7.	N6CW	40	?	302	329	-
7.	8.	W6YI	40	318	322	328	+3
8.	9.	K6ZH	39	267	286	296	+5
9.	10.	WN6K	39	216	221	266	+11
10.	-.	W6YOO	37	247	251	251	NEW

Ten meters continues to be quite productive yielding a bunch of new ones for almost everyone. There are some very nice jumps in score come from our most active players. Our February champ, Jim, W6YA holds on handily to the top spot on both 10 and 40. He should be able to keep both for several more years. Long time leader on both of these lists, Rick Craig, N6ND (SK) goes into the record books with a total of 332 worked and 287 confirmed on 10 and 343 worked/311 confirmed on 40.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 80, 20, 15 meters, and then the WARC bands. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

Congrats this month go out to our 2013 Rookie of the Year, Miguel Rivera, KJ6YXI. Miguel worked a very respectable 135 new entities in his first year of serious DX'ing in 2013. I'll be back from ZF and PJ2 in March to present his certificate. Honorable mention goes to new members Bud Hennessy, AE6BH with 51 new ones and Keith, AK6ZZ with plus 26 in 2013, his fourth year in the hotseat.. Also noted are NA6L with 40 new between 8/12 and 5/13 and K6JHD with 45 new ones in the two years since Jan 2012.

No room for error on this landing strip





How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's newsletter.

DX worked by SDDXC members during late January and February

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
3V8BB	10 CW	15-Feb	1432	N0RR	LX1HD	17 SSB	2-Feb	1544	N6JOJ
9L1A	12 CW	25-Jan	1520	W6YA	OX5T	12 SSB	2-Feb	1933	N6JOJ
A52JR	12 SSB	3-Feb	2119	N6JOJ	S9TF	10 CW	10-Feb	1507	W6YA
CE0Z	10 SSB	7-Feb	1833	N6JOJ	ST2M	20 SSB	12-Jan	1631	W6YA
CEOZ	12 SSB	8-Feb	2315	N6JOJ	VU2JAB-Goa	40 CW	20-Jan	1508	W6YA
EX8VZ	20 SSB	7-Feb	0345	N6JOJ	XW0YJY	10 CW	18-Feb	0146	N0RR
FT5ZM	15 SSB	6-Feb	0245	N6JOJ	YJ0OU	80 CW	19-Feb	1253	N0RR
FT5ZM	160-10	MANY	MANY	W6YA	YJ0ZZ	10 CW	12-Feb	0128	N0RR
FT5ZM	17 SSB	5-Feb	0203	N6JOJ	ZP5MAI	12 SSB	9-Feb	1957	N6JOJ
FT5ZM	20 SSB	26-Jan	1536	N6JOJ	ZS8C	15 SSB	25-Jan	1510	W6YA
HS0ZKX	160 CW	25-Jan	1434	W6YA	ZZA1G	17 CW	25-Jan	1535	W6YA

QSLs Received Recently

Station	Via
1A0KM	Direct
A92IO	Direct
K9W	Direct
T33A	Direct
UP2L	Direct
VU7AG	LoTW
XZ1J	LoTW



3C0BYP is on-the-air. QSL to EA5BYP. For more info see <http://www.qrz.com/db/3c0byp>

For an update on the tower situation in Poway, go to <http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2014/feb/19/poway-council-ham-radio-antenna/>

CHECK YOUR LOGS

It's time once again to recognize those of you who have made outstanding DX achievements during the year. Please check your logs and let me know if you worked your 331st current country or more than 20 all time new countries during 2013. Send your totals to: k6am@arrl.net

144.415 Interference Update

By Jim, W6YA

During recent weeks there has been a group in Orange County using a repeater whose output is on Sunset Ridge, 449.500. As closely as we can figure, the usual input of 5MHz down has been augmented by a second input on 2 meters, right on 144.415, which the SDDXC has used as a simplex frequency for 35 years.

They use a PL, which may be 100.0 or 123.0. We realize this frequency is often used by others on simplex, but this situation is quite different. It has caused us a lot of trouble. This is not from the Mt. Laguna repeater, which is on the same frequency.

The stations we've heard so far on 144.415 are K9KAO, N6DTO, AD6DL, KK6H DU, K6BRY. If anyone has influence with 70cm repeater users in the LA area, please help if you can.

Jim, W6YA

(This is an update from a much longer version received earlier—Ed.)

Obtaining Reciprocal Licensing in French Polynesia

By Ellen Utschig, N6UWW

Looking forward to our upcoming freighter cruise (www.aranui.com), I have researched how to get reciprocal licenses so that we can operate from the various islands we'll visit (Fakarava, Nuku Hiva, Ua Poa, Hiva Oa, Fatu Hiva, Tahuata, Ua Huka, Rangiroa) and, with the freighter line's approval, on board the ship.

A quick search at the ARRL's website showed that French Polynesia, under French rules, falls under the CEPT agreement. FO is the prefix and French Polynesia, being a territory of France, has a reciprocal operating agreement with the United States. Information on the ARRL site indicates that there is no fee for the reciprocal license and it's good for three months.

The contact information was easily found on the ARRL's website so I shot off an e-mail to Mr. Jean Chartier at the National Frequency Agency inquiring what would be required to obtain reciprocal licenses. That very day I received a response saying: "We can authorize you to operate your amateur radio in French Polynesia. For that, could you please fill, sign and send back to us (by post, fax or e-mail) the attached form accompanied with a copy of your amateur radio certificate or licence and of your identity card or passport."

As yet I haven't faxed the form back to him (our cruise isn't until late this summer) but so far so good. Looks like an easy enough process. Stay tuned for follow-up reports

NEW, BRIGHTER LEDs FOR STEPPIR YAGI BEAM DIRECTION

By Larry N6NC

If any of you have a Steppir yagi with the original controller box, you know how easy it is to flip to 180 deg (reverse beam) position to work a KH6 in a contest, then forget to switch it back to normal Forward beam position. This is especially true late at night, and in my shack the controller is off to the left in a cabinet so my parallax view is ~30 degrees across the indicator LED holes, and the LEDs are set way back into the panel holes anyway, so they're hard to see except head on.

To remind me what direction my Steppir yagi is in, I decided to install some larger diameter and brighter direction-indicator LEDs so they would be easy to see in my peripheral vision and when tired. I checked with Steppir tech guru Jim Streibel, and he said the LEDs are just standard LED circuitry, so to observe regular LED installation procedures, nothing special. I was going to use huge 10mm LEDs, but that would have largely ruptured the front panel of the controller, so I opted for 5mm LEDs, just slightly larger than the 3mm LEDs Steppir installs. It is much easier to drill out the LED panel holes a touch larger to hold the new 5mm LEDs.

After RETRACTing the elements to their home position, turning off the controller and unplugging the power, the RS-232 connector and the ground wire, I just disassembled the controller as if I was changing the CMOS chip, unplugged the horizontal board, then removed the four small Phillips screws holding the vertical board containing the push buttons, LEDs and small LCD screen to the front panel.

I matched a drill bit to the 5mm LEDs diameters, then drilled out and faired those three front panel holes to accommodate the larger diameter LEDs.

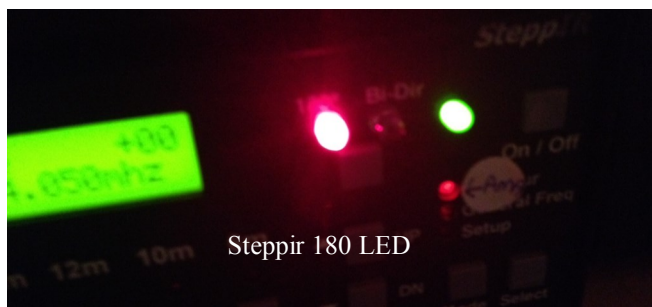
The PC board Steppir mounts the LEDs on is SMD so I was worried, but the two-wire LEDs plug straight into holes on the board so they are easy to take out and put in without damaging the board or nearby components. (Easiest way to remove existing LEDs is to get a tiny screwdriver and lodge it under the LED in between the leads, then keep some lifting leverage on it as you unsolder the leads from the back of the board. Then use solder wick to denude the holes of and remaining solder so you can slide the leads of the new LEDs in.)

Then install the new LEDs, observing the polarity of the original LEDs. I left the leads a tiny bit longer than the originals so the three new LEDs stick out from the panel ~1/4" so they are very prominent when lighted, and can be seen from a wide variety of parallax angles. I used some NTE 30039-30043 5mm series LEDs, "water clear," green, red and yellow. The red (reverse direction) is so bright I can see it 30ft away, and in my peripheral vision, even when tired. (NB: They now sell *flashing* red LEDs, but the ones I bought would not work on the Steppir board in the 180 LED's solder holes and circuitry (I don't know why), so I used a bright red LED instead. Maybe someone can figure that out.)

After you've finished and reassembled the boards, when the Steppir yagi is in FWD position a prominent green LED tells you everything is normal and the beam is headed where the rotator says it's headed.

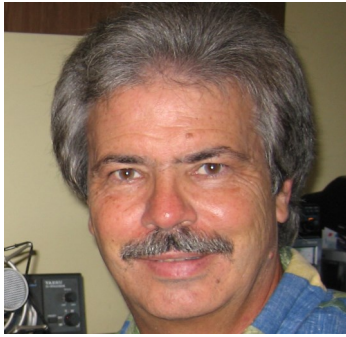
When the beam is in Bi-Directional mode the center yellow LED tells you that.

And when the beam is in the dreaded 180 deg (reverse) position, the BRIGHT RED LED is lighted and you can't bloody miss it, even in your peripheral vision.





ARRL Yuma Hamfest BBQ Dinner. Where's the BEEF ? errr....BUNS ? (Courtesy of Dennis, N6KI)



BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Charles H. "Chip" Margelli, K7JA

**6652 Cerulean Avenue
Garden Grove, CA 92845**

Chip Margelli, K7JA, has been licensed since 1963, and an Extra Class licensee since 1968. Chip and his wife Janet, KL7MF live in Garden Grove, California. Chip is a Life Member of ARRL, AMSAT, and Quarter Century Wireless Association, and is the Director of Sales and Marketing for Force 12/InnovAntennas America, based in Grand Junction, Colorado.

For over fifty years, Chip has been active in DXing and, especially, international radiosport competition. Among his accomplishments are twelve First-Place finishes nationally in the ARRL November Sweepstakes, and a number of world-high or national wins in the CQ World-Wide DX Contest, ARRL DX Contest, and CQ WPX Contest.

Chip's DXpedition activities include operations from St. Lucia, Dominica, Antigua, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Saipan, Micronesia, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Martinique, and Barbados. In 1984, Chip and Janet were invited by the Chinese Radio Sport Association to travel to Beijing for operation from BY1PK and help train the new Chinese operators during the early phases of the rebirth of Amateur Radio in China.

In 1989, Chip was honored by being selected to be the American representative in the first-ever Finnish-Soviet-American DXpedition to Malyj-Vysotskij Island as 4J1FS. The following year, Chip and his teammate Mike Wetzel, W9RE, won a Silver Medal at the World Radiosport Team Championship held in conjunction with the Goodwill Games in Seattle, an elite competition featuring twenty-three teams from fifteen countries around the world.

And in the Fall of 1991, Chip was a member of the Instructor/Operator team in the IARU Albania Project, led by Martti Laine, OH2BH, which brought about the rebirth of Amateur Radio in Albania after many decades of radio silence.

In 1994, Chip and Janet accepted commissions by two magazines to visit the Havana area to document the participation by members of the *Federación de Radioaficionados de Cuba* in the ARRL June VHF QSO Party, which included operation as COØFRC, CO2/K7JA, and CO2/WA7WMB. Theirs was the first group of American radio amateurs to be so honored. Feature articles by Chip and Janet appeared in *The QCWA Journal* and *QST* in late 1994. In 2003, Chip and Janet and four other members of the Piña Colada Contest Club (KP2AA) joined forces with the FRC in the first-ever joint Cuba-U.S. Field Day operation as COØUS. This operation marks the first occasion where a Treasury Department Specific License was granted for a public Amateur Radio demonstration involving U.S. Amateurs.